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**The History of
Bampfylde-Moore
Carew**

Sleaford [England]

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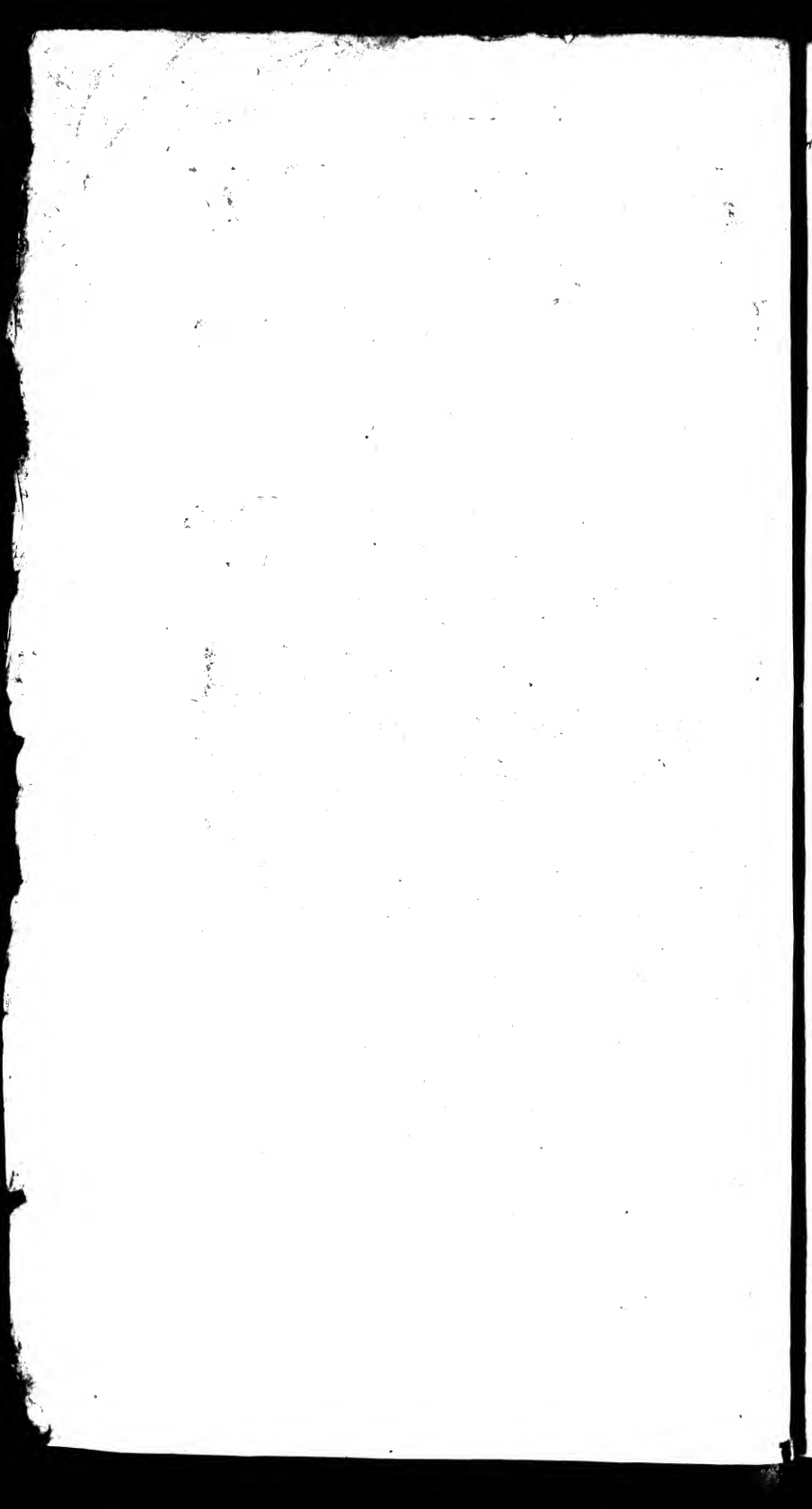
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THE
HISTORY
OF
Bampfylde-Moore
Carew;

Who was upwards of Forty Years,
KING of the BEGGARS.

Written by Himself.



SLEAFORD: Printed and Sold by W. ROSE,
where may be had all Sorts of Old and New
Songs, Garlands, Patters, Histories, &c.

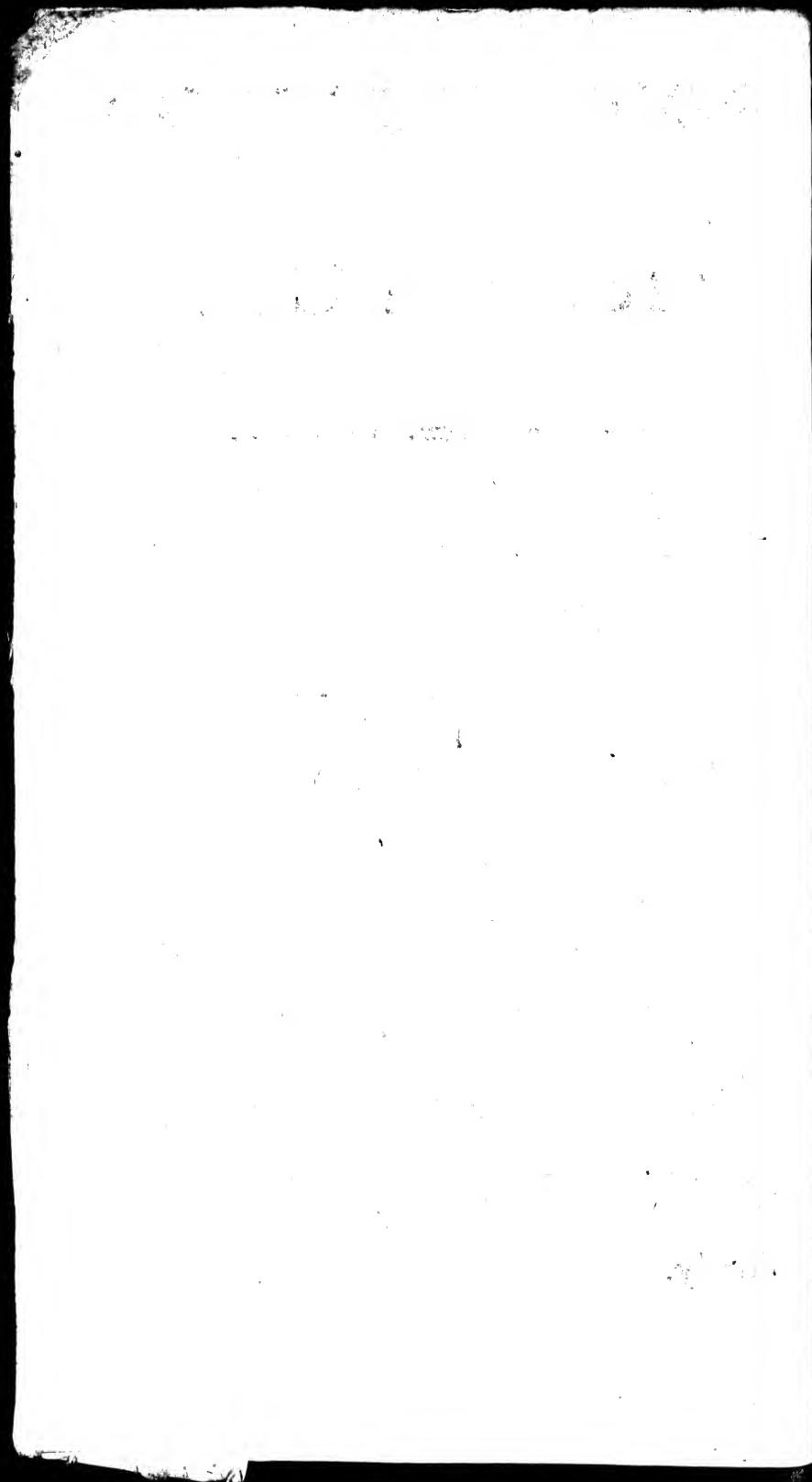


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PREFACE.

THE Compiler, being well acquainted with Mr. Bampfylde-Moore Carew, thinks himself authorised to declare to the reader, that this edition is the most authentic and fullest account ever published of this extraordinary man; as it is selected wholly from the journals which he constantly kept of his travels; and still remain in the possession of his family.





T H E

L I F E,

VOYAGES, AND ADVENTURES

O F

BAMFYLD-MOORE CAREW

MR. *Bamfylde-Moore Carew*, descended from an antient Family of the *Carews*, son of the Rev. Mr. *Theodore Carew*, of the parish of *Bickley*, near *Tiverton*, in the county of *Devon*, of which Parish he was many years Rector, very much esteemed while living, and at his death universally lamented. Mr. *Carew* was born in the month of *July* 1683; and never was there known a more splendid appearance at any baptism in the *West* of *England*, than at his; the Hon. *Hugh Bamfylde Esq.* and

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the Hon. *Major Moore*, were his illustrious godfathers, both of whose names he bears; who some time contended who should be the precedent, the affair was determined by throwing up a piece of money, which was won by Mr. *Bampfylde*; who, upon this account, presented a piece of plate, whereon was engraved, in large letters, **BAMPFYLDE-MOORE CAREW.**

As he increased in years he grew majestic, his limbs strong and well-proportioned, his features regular, his countenance open and ingenious, bearing all those characteristical marks which physiognomists assert, denotes an honest and good-natured mind.

THE Rev. Mr. *Carew* had several other children, sons and daughters, besides *Bampfylde*, all of whom he educated in a tender and pious manner; *Bampfylde*, at the age of twelve, was sent to *Tiverton* school, where he contracted an intimate acquaintance with young gentlemen of the first rank in *Somersetshire*, *Devonshire*, *Cornwall*, and *Dorsetshire*.

DURING the first four years of his continuance at *Tiverton* school, his close application and delight in his studies, gave his friends great hopes that he might one day make a good figure in that honourable profession which his father became so well, and for which he was designed.

He attained, for his age, a very considerable knowledge in the *Latin* and *Greek* tongues; but soon a new exercise engaged all his attention: This was hunting, in which he soon made a promising progress; for, besides that agility and courage requisite for leaping, &c. by indefatigable study and application, added to it a remarkable chearing halloo to the dogs, and which we believe was peculiar to himself; and, besides this found out a secret hitherto unknown but to himself, of enticing any dog to follow him.

It happened that a farmer living near *Tiverton*, who was a great sportsman, and used to hunt with the *Tiverton* schollars, acquainted them of a fine deer which he had seen, with a
A 2 collar

collar about his neck, in the fields about his farm, which he supposed to be the favourite deer of some gentleman not far off: this was very agreeable news to the *Tiverton* scholars, who went in a great body to hunt it: this happened a short time before harvest; the chace was very hot, and they ran the deer many miles, which did great damage, the corn being almost ripe. Upon the death of the deer, and examination of the collar, it was found to belong to Col. *Nutcombe*, of the parish of *Clayhanger*: being severely threatened, absented themselves from school, and the next morning fell in company with a society of Gipsies, who were feasting and carousing at the *Brick-house*, near *Tiverton*.

THE reader may perhaps be surprised at the mention of oaths administered, and ceremonials used at the entrance of these young gentlemen; but his surprise will lessen, when we inform him that these people are subject to a form of government and laws peculiar to themselves, and all pay
obedience

obedience to one who is stiled their King; (to which great honour we shall hereafter see our hero arrive, having having first proved himself worthy of it, by a great number of necessary achievements.)

THE advantages the king enjoys, is, that he is supplied with necessaries from the contribution of his people; whilst he, in return, directs all his care to the defending and protecting them, in contriving and planning whatever is likely to promote their welfare and happiness, in seeing a due regard paid to their laws, in registering their memorable actions, and making a due report of all these things at their general assemblies, so that, perhaps, at this time, it is amongst these people only that the office of a king is the same as it was at its first institution: viz. a father and protector of his people.

THEIR laws are few and simple, but exactly and punctually observed: the fundamental of which is, that strong love and mutual regard for each

each member in particular and for the whole community in general.

By what we have already said, and much more that we could add of the happiness of these people, we may account for what has been matter of much surprise to the friends of our hero, viz. his strong attachment for the space of above 40 years, to this community, and his refusing the large offers that have been made him to engage him to quit their society: but to return to our history.

Thus was Mr. Carew initiated into the mysteries of a society, which for antiquity needs give place to none, as it is evident from the same which in *Latin* is called *Egyptus*, and in *French* *Ægyptienne*, that they derive their original from the *Egyptians*, one of the most antient and learned people in the world, and that they were persons of more than common learning, who travel to communicate their knowledge to mankind.

In the mean time his worthy parents sorrowed for him, as one that
was

was no more, not being able to get the least tidings of him, though they publickly advertised him; till at the expiration of a year and a half, having repeated accounts of the great sorrow and trouble his parents were in, melted with tenderness, he repaired to his father's house at *Bickley* in *Devonshire*. Disguised in habit he was not at first known by his Parents; but when he discovered himself, joy gushed out in streams, stopping the power of speech, bedewed his cheeks with tears, and imprinted them with kisses, the good heart and tender parent did feel much more than we can describe.

MR. *Carew*'s parents did every possible thing to render home agreeable; and all his friends strove to entertain him, so that nothing was wanting to make him happy; his pleasures grew every day tasteless, and he relished none of those enjoyments which his friends daily provided for him.

ONE day without taking leave of parents, he directed his steps towards *Brickhouse*, at *Tiverton*, where he first entered

entered into the community of the *Gipsies*; and finding some of them there he joined their company, to the great satisfaction of them, as well as of himself.

HAVING taken the oaths of allegiance to the sovereign, was soon sent out upon his enemies. After being absent some time, he returned with a considerable booty, to *Stratton* in *Devonshire*, where he again joined the general assembly of *Gipsies*, where he received great applause, on account of the successful stratagems he had executed, and had the honour of being seated at dinner next the king. He communicated his design to his school-fellow *Escot*, who had not left the *Gipsies*, to go abroad, a ship then just ready to sail they both embarked for *Newfoundland*. Nothing remarkable happened on their passage which relates to our hero; we shall pass by it, and land him safe in *Newfoundland*.

OUR hero did not spend his time uselessly; he visited *Kittiway*, *Carboneer*, *Brigas Bay*, *Bay of Bulls*, *Petty-Harbour*,

Harbour, Cape Broil, Bonavast, and all the other settlements, both *English*, and *French*, making himself fully acquainted with those places, and the inhabitants of note. He also visited the great *Bank of Newfoundland*, which is a mountain of land laying near the sea. The fishing season being over, and our hero having made all the observations that he thought would be useful to him, he returned again in the *Mansail* to *Dartmouth*, bringing with him a surprising fierce and large dog, which he had enticed to follow him.

OUR hero was received with great joy by his fellow *Gipsies*, especially when they found he had taken such a voyage to enable him to deceive their enemies with the greater success. He then set out in the character of a shipwrecked sailor, from *Newfoundland*, according as the Newspapers gave account of such melancholly accidents.

It was about this time he became sensible

sensible of the power of love; we mean of that sort, which has more of the mind than the body. It was in Newcastle upon Tyne that he became enamoured with the daughter of Mr. G——y, an eminent apothecary and surgeon there: this young lady had charms sufficient to captivate the heart of any man, not unsusceptible of love, and they made so deep an impression upon him that they wholly effaced every object which before had created any desire in him, and never permitted any other to raise them afterwards; for, wonderful to tell! we have, after about thirty years enjoyment, seen him lament her occasional absence almost with tears, and talk of her with all the fondness of one who has been in love but three days. Our hero tried all love's soft persuasions with his fair one in an honourable way; and as his person was very engaging, and his appearance genteel, he did not find her greatly averse to his proposals. As he was aware that his being of the community of the gypsies might prejudice her against him without examination, he passed with her for the mate of a collier's vessel, in which he was supported by Capt. L——n, of Dartmouth,

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an old acquaintance of his who then commanded a vessel lying at Newcastle, and acknowledged him for his mate. These assertions satisfied the young lady, and she at length consented to exchange the tender care and love of a parent for that of a husband; and he made use of such persuasive arguments, that she agreed to elope from her parents, and ventured to go with him on board Capt. L—n's vessel, they soon hoisted sail, and the very winds being willing to favour these happy lovers, they had an exceeding quick passage to Dartmouth, where they landed. In a few days they set out for Bath, where they lawfully solemnized their nuptials with great gaiety and splendor, but no body at that time could conjecture who they were which was the occasion of much speculation, and false surmises.

WE cannot conclude on this head, but with the deserved praises of our hero, from whose mouth we have had repeated assurances, that during their voyage to Dartmouth, and their journey from thence to Bath, not the least indignity was offered to the innocence and modesty of his dear Miss Gray.

OUR

OUR lovers began to be at length weary of the same repeated rounds of pleasures at Bath, they therefore paid a visit to the city of Bristol, and afterwards to an uncle of his, at Porchester in Hampshire, who took every opportunity of making use of every argument to persuade him to quit the gypsies.—Reflecting now that he had long lived useless to that community, he began to prepare for his departure from his uncle's, in order to make some excursions on the enemy: and to do this with more effect, he bethought himself of a new stratagem; he therefore equipts himself in a loose black gown, puts on a band, a large white peruke, and a broad-bimmed hat: his whole deportment was agreeable to his dress; his pace was solemn and slow. his countenance thoughtful and grave, his eyes turned on the ground, but now and then raised in seeming ejaculations to heaven; in every look and action he betrayed his want, but at the same time seemed overwhelmed with that shame which modest merit feels when it is obliged to solicit the cold hand of charity; his behaviour excited the curiosity of many gentlemen, clergy, &c. to enquire into the circumstances of his

his misfortunes; but it was with difficulty they could engage him to relate them.

UPON hearing of a vessel bound to Philadelphia, on board of which were many Quakers, being cast away on the coast of Ireland, he laid aside his gown, cassock, and band, and cloathed himself in a plain suit, pulls the button from his hat, and flaps it on every side; his countenance was now demure, his language unadorned, and the words you and fir he seemed to hold in abomination; his hat was moved to none, for though under misfortunes, he would not think of bowing the knee to Baal.

WITH these qualifications he addressed himself to persons of that denomination with great success, and hearing that there was to be a great meeting of them from all parts, at a place called Thorncombe, in Devonshire, he makes the best of his way there, and with a demure look, and modest assurance, enters into the assembly, where making his case known, and satisfying them by his behaviour, of his being one of their sect, they made a very considerable contribution for his relief. So

So active was his mind, that he was never happier than when engaged in some adventure or other; therefore, when he had no opportunity of putting any great stratagem in execution, he would amuse himself with those that did not require so great a share of art and ingenuity: whenever heard of any melancholy accident by fire, he immediately repaired to the place where it happened, and there remarking very accurately the spot, inquiring into the cause of it, and getting an exact information of the trades, characters, families, and circumstances of the unhappy sufferers, he immediately assumed the person and name of one of them, and burning some part of his coat or hat, as an ocular demonstration of his narrow escape, he made the best of his way to places at some distance, and there passed for one who had been burnt out; and to gain the greater credit, shewed a paper signed with the names of several gentlemen in the neighbourhood of the place where the fire happened, recommending him as an honest unhappy sufferer; by which he got considerable gains. Upon this, and several of the like stratagems, a number of the Gypsies acknowledged he was

was worthy of succeeding their present good old King.

It was about this time the good old king of the Medicants, named Clause Patch, well known in the city of London, and most parts of England, finished a life of true glory, being spent in promoting the welfare of his people. A little before his death, finding the decays of nature increase every day, and his final dissolution approach, he called together all his children, to the number of eighteen, and summoned as many of his subjects as were within any convenient distance, being willing that the last spark of his life should go out in the service of his people; this summons was obeyed with heavy hearts by his loving subjects, and at the day and place appointed, a great number assembled together.

THE venerable old king was brought in a high chair, and placed in the midst of them, his children standing next to him, and his subjects behind them.—Reader, if thou hast ever seen that famous picture of Seneca, bleeding to death in the bath, with his friends and disciples standing

standing round him, then mayest thou form some idea of this assembly: such was the lively grief, such the profound veneration, such the solemn attention that appeared in every countenance: but we can give thee no adequate idea of that inward joy which the good old king felt at seeing these unfeigned marks of love in his subjects, which he considered as so many testimonies of his own virtues; for certain it is, that when kings are the fathers of their people, their subjects will have for them more than the filial love and veneration of sons.—The good old king then said, therefore I depart in peace, to rest with my fathers: it remains only that I give you my last advice, which is, that in chusing my successor, you pay no partial regard to my family, but let him only who is most worthy, rule over you. He said no more, but leaning back in his chair expired without a sigh. Never was there a scene of more real grief, than appeared now among his children and subjects. Nothing was heard but sighs and exclamations of their loss. They sent the sorrowful news to all the community, summoning them all to appear at the city of London by a certain day, in order to elect a new king. Our hero was one of the candidates, and on account of his past services to the community, he was chosen KING, and the following ode sung by the electors.

An

AN ODE,

CAST your *nabs and cares away,
 This is Maunders' holiday;
 In the World look round and see,
 Where so happy a King as † He?

At the crowning of our King,
 Thus we ever dance and sing;
 Where's the Nation lives so free,
 And so merrily as we?

Be it Pce, or be it War,
 Here at liberty we are;
 Hang all ‡ Harmenbecks, we cry,
 We the Cuffin § Queers defy.

We enjoy our ease and rest,
 To the Field we are not press'd;
 And when the Taxes are increas'd,
 We are not a Penny cess'd.

Nor will any go to law,
 With a || Maundier for a Straw;
 All which happiness he brags,
 Is only owing to his rags.

* Hats or caps † Pointing to their new-made King. ‡ Constables. § A justice of peace, or a churl. || A beggar.

THOUGH Mr. Carew was now privileged by the dignity of his office from going out on any cruize, and was provided with every thing necessary, by the contributions of the community; our hero, notwithstanding the privilege of his office, was as active in his stratagems as ever. His first new scheme was, to go in the character of a poor unfortunate soap-boiler, whose house was set on fire by the carelessness of an apprentice, by which means he got handsomely relieved. At Darlington, he assumed the character of a rat-catcher, and sold a receipt to a gentleman's steward for a crown; and, under this character he travelled forward to Plymouth. Here, hearing there was to be a cock-match, lays aside his rat-catcher's habit, and puts on that of a gentleman; he betted several wagers with Sir Coventry Carew, (his own brother,) Mr. Henry Carew, Minister of Saltash, and had the good fortune to win.

Some little time after, Carew met Mr. Phillips, a celebrated limner, who asked him if he would sit for his picture? as he had been desired to draw it by Mr. Copplestone
Bampfylde,

Bampfylde, which our Hero readily agreed to. Some days after he met an old woman with a young child, they joined company, and lay together at private lodgings, and next day our Hero set out a begging, dressed in the old womans cloathes, and the child on his back; he received great contributions, which he gave to the poor woman.

Having been a long time absent from his wife, he now repaired to her, and in a few days took possession of his new habitation, and having settled to appearance the plan of a private family, soon found in London opportunities of exercising his ingenuity. It would be endless to relate the various characters he assumed, and the many projects he formed, in which he seldom failed of the greatest success. The general election approaching, he missed no opportunity of exercising his abilities——what noble entertainments——what pleasures he met with——and what contributions he raised under the various characters he appeared in, through the numerous counties, citits, and boroughs of the kingdom..

Our

OUR adventurer now speculated in the lottery, and buying nine tickets, one came up 5000l. two 2000l. each, and one 20l. Flushed with success, he tried the next year the same number, and one was 1000l. and one 50l. he tried the third time, and out of the nine two were of 50l. the fourth year all nine were——: perceiving fortune no longer favoured him, he would tempt her no further; and finding the air of the town not rightly to agree with him, and having by this time made his circumstances quite easy, he retired in the western parts to a neat purchase he made; and there ended his days beloved and esteemed by all: leaving his daughter (his wife dying some time before him) a genteel fortune; who since was married to a neighbouring young gentleman, and by the sweetness of her behaviour and amiableness of her character, is a blessing to herself, a pattern to her acquaintance, and an honour to his family.

THE END.

